

URBAN/MUNICIPAL
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1997



the children's aid society
OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

1997 Annual Report

URBAN MUNICIPAL

JUL 3 1998

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



"Me and my foster sisters going to the park"
Chelsey Simmonds, age 12

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

BUDGET/SERVICE PLAN

The Society's 1997 Budget Submission to the Ministry of Community and Social Services detailed our Child Welfare service delivery programs for the year and included a funding request of \$10,349,674.



Rosemary Knechtel
President

Demand for service during 1997 continued to be intense particularly at Intake and in the long term protection units. This led the Society to maintain temporary staffing positions throughout the year. During 1997, the Ministry allocated additional funding to child welfare, recognizing the inadequacies of staffing levels throughout the province relative to case levels. The Society will make use of its share of the funding received through this process by making several positions full time.

The Society completed 1997 with a deficit of \$915,396. Our application for additional funding, through the Ministry's Contingency Funding Review Process, outlined the reasons for this deficit as an increase in both the residential and nonresidential areas and also the financial stresses associated with the agency's Visitation Program for court ordered supervised access visits.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff and management from all departments of the agency contributed to the successful negotiations with C.U.P.E. Local 3899 and Local 3042 resulting in two agreements each having a two-year term ending on December 31, 1998.

During 1997 an unusually high turn over rate of front line social work staff resulted in the recruitment of 20 new social workers on a regular and contract basis. Management recognized the need for significant training initiatives for these employees. Accordingly, this will be a high priority for 1998.

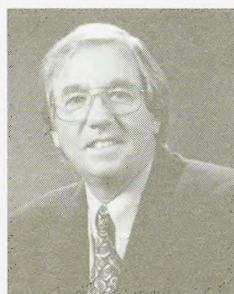
ACCREDITATION ACHIEVED IN 1997

Certainly, the highlight of the year was in receiving accreditation status by our provincial association on June 5th. The Accreditation Program was developed by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies in order to provide all Children's Aid Societies in Ontario with a common set of best practice standards covering all areas of service and administration. Thanks to the dedication and hard work by agency staff and the support of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and foster parents, our agency scored exceptionally high during the accreditation evaluation.

STRATEGIC PLAN II UPDATE

The Society has shown significant progress as we reached the midpoint of our 2nd Strategic Plan. In the area of communications, the Society continues to hold regular services department, union/management and general staff meetings. New initiatives include a Partnership Committee between foster parents and agency staff and an "Outcome Measures" project that will help us to evaluate the impact of our services on clients.

The Joint Task Group between this agency and the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth has established many initiatives in developing efficiencies in service delivery to our community. These include joint projects in the area of After Hours Services, Legal Services, Foster Care Recruitment, Adoption Services, Case Recording, Administrative Services and Fundraising.



Sylvio Mainville
Managing Director

Ensuring equal access to our services by all in our community is the task of our Multicultural Subcommittee. Recent initiatives by this committee include plans to approach the Native, Afro-Canadian, Carribean, and Indo-Canadian communities to open dialogue on foster care recruitment. This Society continues its membership on the Cambodian Information Sharing Committee in order to open lines of communication with this population.

The Society maintains a strong fundraising program that includes special projects, events, and direct mail campaigns. Initiatives in 1997 include the launching of our "Guardian Angel" program which encourages annual giving in support of our Specialized Support Services and youth programs. During 1997 more than \$95,000 was privately raised through these initiatives.

The Society continues to participate actively with the Information and Technology Group sponsored by the O.A.C.A.S. At the Society level our own Information and Technology Committee has been responsible for the installation of Window NT, upgrading work stations to Windows 95, the installation of CWIS, a child welfare information system, improving internal communications through the use of e-mail and the installation of a new communications server for internet access and external communications.

SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

During 1997, service demands remained high. A significant increase was noted in the number of children admitted to the care of the Society during the year. The most common reasons for referrals to the Society in 1997 were: 1. Physical Abuse; 2. Behaviour Problems; 3. Sexual Abuse; 4. Lack of Supervision. The four most frequent reasons for children being admitted to the care of the Society were: 1. Physical Abuse; 2. Behaviour Problems; 3. Lack of Supervision; 4. Emotional Rejection.

ONTARIO CHILD MORTALITY TASK FORCE

Spearheaded by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Ontario Child Mortality Task Force was formed in 1997 to look into the deaths of 100 children who were known to a C.A.S. during the years, 1995 and 1996.

The final report of the Task Force was released in mid 1997 with more than 300 recommendations for the field of child welfare. Most significant, were the following: The development, implementation and training of a common "Risk Assessment Tool" to be used by all C.A.S.'s in the province; the development and implementation of a provincial interactive data base for use by all C.A.S.'s in the province; and additional funding for hiring front line social work staff to lessen the number of cases being carried by child welfare social workers.

The O.A.C.A.S., together with its member agencies, are committed to implementing these recommendations as quickly as possible. The O.A.C.A.S. continues to advocate on behalf of all C.A.S.'s for changes in the Child and Family Services Act, the legislation which governs the work of all Children's Aid Societies.

A CARING COMMUNITY

Finally, the Society wishes to express its deepest appreciation to the individuals, groups and businesses in the Hamilton-Wentworth community who so generously supported our efforts during 1997. In particular, we would like to make special note of the continuing contributions of the following groups and organizations: The Hamilton Community Foundation, Sears-Limeridge Mall, Citizen Action Group and the Firestone Sports Bar. We recognize and thank each and everyone whose contribution, whether financial or in volunteer hours, has helped our agency to continue to provide important services to the vulnerable children and youth in our community.

1997 - 1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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President

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Immediate Past President

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2nd Vice President

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Sylvio Mainville
Secretary

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Kim Van Lowe
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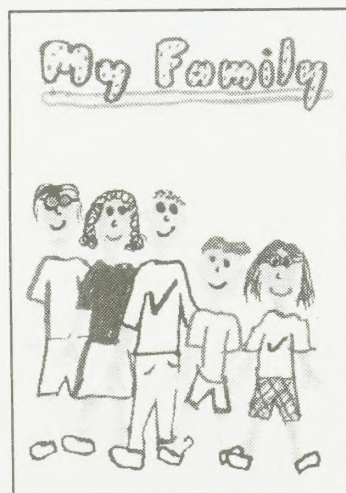
**Regional Appointees*

FACTS AND FIGURES: 1997 IN REVIEW



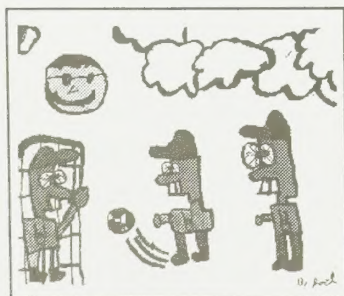
"My Dad and I Swimming"

Megan A. Colquhoun,
age 8



"My Family"

Bethan Chatland,
age 10



"Soccer"

Joel Knapp-Blezius,
age 8

Intake Services:

- A total of 4,919 new requests for service were made to the Society.
- There were a total of 922 reports of child abuse made to the society. Of these, 412 were sexual abuse and 510 were physical.
- The Society's After Hours Emergency Services responded to 3,601 requests for service.

Family and Children's Services:

- A total of 729 children were admitted to the care of the Society during 1997.
- There were 181 foster and group homes opened to the Society as of December 31, 1997. Of these, 25 were Alternate Care homes providing temporary relief for 45 children with special needs.
- The Crisis Intervention Program provided 4,342 hours of support to families and foster families.
- Programs for children and youth: Great Escape Summer Program serviced 90 children and youth; The Summer Therapeutic Recreation Program serviced 48 children and youth; Camp Champ serviced 48 young children; in addition, 230 children and youth were sponsored to attend a residential or day camp during the summer of 1997.
- The Parent Support Worker Program provided a total of 7,555 hours of direct service to families during 1997. On average 80 families were serviced each month.
- The Society Visitation Program carried out 8,611 hours of supervised visits (an increase of 33 % over 1996), between children and their parents. This reflects 4,137 visits (up 22%) involving 1,099 families (up 56%).

Volunteer Services:

- The Volunteer Services provided the following services to children and families during 1997: 18,312 volunteer drives; babysitting for 126 children; 3,422 hours of special friend (one-to-one) services; 615 hours of clerical and case aide assistance; and 249 hours of supervised visits. There were two new programs introduced in 1997; the McMaster Students for Literacy Program, which provided 124 hours of service and the Family Support Volunteer Program, 96 hours of service.

Adoption Services:

- A total of 23 children were placed on adoption by this Society in 1997. Of this number, 21 were under 5 years of age.
- There were 464 brief services responded to by the Adoption Intake .
- The Unplanned Pregnancy Services assisted a total of 15 clients.
- A total of 313 Adoption Disclosure cases were serviced and closed in 1997. 129 non-identifying histories were completed and 42 adoption reunions were facilitated.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND FUND BALANCE

For the year ending December 31st, 1997

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	\$8,494,280
Regional Municipality	1,990,298
Health and Welfare Canada	271,575
Other Government Grants	38,384
Other Children's Aid Societies	145,970
Children's Aid Society Private Funds	79,761
Miscellaneous	132,425
	<u>\$11,152,693</u>

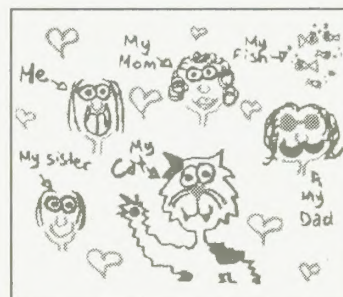
EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$ 5,796,498
Benefits	1,060,846
Building Occupancy	169,213
Office Expenses	317,331
Staff Training	55,684
Promotion and Publicity	38,834
Purchased Services	177,982
Transportation	247,654
Boarding Payments	3,240,253
Health and Related Services	162,537
Client Personal Needs	587,260
Non-Residential Programs	66,693
Client Assistance	22,572
Miscellaneous	117,686
Additional Expenses	7,046
	<u>\$12,068,089</u>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue	<u>(915,396)</u>

FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance, as previously reported	\$ (57,654)
Adjustment of prior year's grant revenue	(7,283)
	<u>(64,937)</u>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue	<u>(915,396)</u>
Fund Balance December 31, 1997	<u><u>\$ (980,333)</u></u>

AUDITORS: Doanne Raymond
An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1997 is available at the Society's office upon your request.



"Me & My Family"
Alex Thomassian,
age 12



"Swimming"
Lauren Blair,
age 4



"Fun in the Park"
Lisa Muckle,
age 13

A Special Thank You To Our Community

*Our sincere
thanks go to all
those who so
generously
contributed to
the Society's fund
raising efforts
and campaigns
during 1997. All
donations
support the
Society's
Children's Fund
which provides
the funding for
all of the Child
and Youth
Programs, the
Youth
Employment
Program, the
Crown Ward
Bursary
Program, the
Summer Camp
Program, Camp
CHAMP, and
family assistance
at Christmas
time.*

Gifts to \$499

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Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Yanover

Gifts \$500 - \$999

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Mr. Calvin Howey
Mrs. Irene Hunter
Kinetite Club of Hamilton
Rotary Club of Waterdown

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20th Century Fox Film Corporation
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Escarpment Realty
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Escarpment Realty
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The Framing and Art Centre
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Trulli Clinique
Union Gas
Unisource Canada
United Trophy Manufacturer's
Variety Club of Ontario
Walker's Chocolates
Wal-Mart, Eastgate Square
West Town Bar and Grill
Ms. Gail Young
Zellers, Upper Sherman and Mohawk
Zellers, Fiesta Mall
Zellers, Centre Mall
Zellers, Queenston Road

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Miss Jamie Brouillette
Mrs. Karen Bulmer and Family
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C.A.S. Adoption Unit
C.A.S. Long Term Unit A
C.A.S. Intake Unit Staff
C.A.S. Long Term Unit C
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Estate of Eileen P. Gambell
Estate of Alma Sarah Marguerite Knapman
Evelyn Parrot Trust
Estate of Madeleine Westland

Guardian Angels



GIFTS \$1,000 & Over

Citizen Action Group
Comstock Canada Ltd.
The Hamilton Community Foundation
Dr. Michael Mogavero
Rotary Club of Hamilton-East Wentworth
Sears-Limeridge Mall and Sears Charitable Foundation
SIMS Advertising
Staff of the Children's Aid Society
Mr. & Mrs. T.E. Yates

Mission Statement

In the best interests of children, the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth is committed to their protection and well-being while supporting the autonomy, integrity, and cultural diversity of families.



All artwork appearing in this report was submitted by children who visited the Children's Aid Society's booth at the Earthsong '97 Festival in Hamilton